SAYS WITNESS TO HAVE BEEN DRUGGED

Novel Hurls New Charge at Foe

By ROBERT HORAN
Of The Dispatch Staff

New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison planned to subdue a wanted witness with a high-powered tranquilizer gun and question him in the Garrison Kennedy assassination probe, it was asserted Monday.

Gordon Novel, 29, also wanted in the investigation, alleged that he (Novel) was attempting to get a gun for Garrison to subdue David Ferrie, who died, apparently by his own hand, on Feb. 27.

AT THE TIME, Novel asserted in a press conference, Novel was working for an unnamed "national news service" and was working for Garrison.

According to Novel, after Ferrie was subdued, Garrison planned to administer him truth serum for questioning in the probe. Ferrie died before the gun arrived.

Novel did reveal information gleaned from one lie detector test. But not from interviews conducted while under the effects of sodium amytal, the results of a "battery" of psychological tests he has taken.

NEITHER THE lie detector tests nor results of the sodium amytal interviews, are admissible in court.

Tapes made of the interviews while under the influence of the drug administered by a physician were interspersed with frequent obscenities and could not be quoted in complete context.

While he has made various allegations, Novel has yet to reveal to news media any evidence to substantiate his fraud charges.

NOVEL SAID Ferrie was wanted for questioning by Garrison after the former airplane pilot had been given a lie detector test, which Novel said showed he had nothing to do with an assassination plot.

He stated Garrison would have used a dart which would have been used on a 180-pound bear. However, Novel claimed the dart, had he given it to Garrison, would not have contained a tranquilizing drug (such as that used to subdue wild animals).

Showing slight nervousness and frequently lighting a pipe, Novel fielded many questions from reporters with arch replies, refusing to be pinned down on specifics.

ASKED HOW he received living funds, he replied, "I get loans."

Weiner released the transcript of a lie detector test made at McLean, Va., March 25 by a professional polygraph operator. Novel sai dthe test was paid for by Hearst News Service and NBC.

The polygraph operator, Lloyd B. Furr, said in his opinion, Novel's answers should be "considered as truthful answers."

NOVEL ANSWERED "No" to questions as to whether he had any knowledge of a genuine conspiracy to kill President Kennedy.

Dr. Willis Driscoll, a psychologist who was present at both sodium amytal hearings and who gave Novel psychological tests, told newsmen he did not find Novel "psychotic."

NOVEL WAS arrested April 1 by Gahanna police on a fugitive from justice warrant charging conspiracy to commit burglary at Houma, La.

On April 17, he was named in two more Louisiana warrants "relative to theft" in connection with alleged thefts totaling $3400. His attorney, Jerry Weiner, claims the money is a civil matter and involves bills incurred by Novel in his electronics firm.

Novel is free under $10,000 bond.

MEANWHILE, AN extradition hearing on a request by Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen to have Novel returned to New Orleans, has been delayed.

John McElroy, chief aide to Governor Rhodes, said Friday the papers had been returned to Louisiana because, "there are certain technicalities which do not comply with the law."

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GORDON NOVEL, LEFT, WITH ATTORNEY JERRY WEINER
Answers Assassination Probe Questions at Press Conference